

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 H-02 L-03 SSO-00 SCA-01 /019 W

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O P 191754Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4216

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 05519

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, BE

SUBJECT: US CITIZENS INJURED IN TRAIN ACCIDENT

REF: STATE'S 143244; BRUSSELS'S 05332.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: SENATOR PAUL FANNIN AND CONGRESSMEN

WILLIAM KETCHUM, RAY ROBERTS AND MORRIS UDALL.

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH U.S. MEDICAL OFFICIALS AT SHAPE HOSPITAL TO ASSURE ITSELF THAT NONE OF USCITS WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED. AS EXPLAINED IN BRUSSEL'S TEL IN REF, SHAPE INFORMED EACH U.S. PATIENT THAT EMBASSY WAS PREPARED TO ASSIST INJURED AMERICANS, ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS, IF ASSISTANCE WAS REQUIRED (INCLUDING AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE). EACH PATIENT WAS ALSO PROVIDED A CARD CONTAINING CONSULAR OFFICER'S NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER.

2. SINCE IT APPEARED THAT PATIENTS APPROPRIATE NEEDS WERE BEING MET, CONSULAR OFFICER DID NOT IMMEDIATELY CALL ON USCITS. REASON: ONE OFFICER TRAINEE WAS INVOLVED IN FOUR-DAY DEPOSITION FOR DISTRICT COURT OF COLORADO; REMAINING TWO OFFICERS, IN ADDITION TO TAKING CARE OF NORMAL, HEAVY SEASONAL WORKLOAD, HAD TO DEAL WITH FIVE USCIT WELFARE CASES TWO OF WHICH WERE MENTALLY DISTURBED PERSONS WHO REQUIRED CONTINUING PERSONAL ATTENTION, INCLUDING ESCORT TO AIRPORT, UNTIL THEY WERE REPATRIATED.

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3. CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED EACH PATIENT ON JUNE 19 AND

PERSONALLY CONFIRMED WHAT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY LEARNED THROUGH RESPONSIBLE U.S. OFFICIALS AT SHAPE HSOPITAL.

4. BELGIAN RAILWAY OFFICIALS HAVE SHOWN RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD EACH USCIT PATIENT AND AS QUOTE INITIAL PAYMENT UNQUOTE HAVE PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES TO EACH PATIENT'S CHOSEN DESTINATION.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON EACH PATIENT:

A. BLANCHARD, MARY (MRS.): TO BE DISCHARGED JUNE 21.

WILL FLY TO BERGEN, NORWAY TO JOIN HUSBAND;

B. COOK, JAMES (MRS.): TO BE DISCHARGED JUNE 20. FRIEND WILL DRIVE HER TO PARIS WHERE SHE WILL DEPART BY AIR FOR TUCSON, ARIZONA;

C. LYNCH, RUTH (MRS.): DISCHARGED JUNE 19. WILL STAY WITH LOCAL FRIENDS AND THEN FLY ON JUNE 21 TO FORT WORTH, TEXAS WITH HER MOTHR, MRS. RITA FRENCH;

D. FRENCH, RITA (MRS.): TO BE DISCHARGED JUNE 21. WILL FLY ON SAME DAY TO FORT WORTH WITH DAUGHTER, MRS. RUTH LYNCH;

E. SEBO, LASZLO AND SUSAN (MR. & MRS.): DISCHARGED JUNE 19 AND DEPARTED BY TRAIN FOR BUDAPEST, HUNGARY TO VISIT RELATIVES WHO HAD BEEN NOTIFIED OF ACCIDENT PREVIOUSLY BY EMBASSY.

6. ALL PATIENTS WERE WARM IN THEIR PRAISE OF THE SHAPE HOSPITAL, ITS STAFF, AND THE CARE RECEIVED THERE. FIRESTONE

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